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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

December 23, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 5379 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: PREL
Captions: None
Subject: IRAQ GC PRESIDENT AL HAKIM DECEMBER 21 VISIT TO ABU
DHABI
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 05379

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: P/M ECON RSO AMB DCM

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA
DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY
CLEARED: A/DCM:HOLSIN-WINDECKER

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2772
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/HQ COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTH BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 005379

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/NGA AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/22/13
TAGS: [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: IRAQ GC PRESIDENT AL HAKIM DECEMBER 21
VISIT TO ABU DHABI

Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba,
Reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

Ref: (A) Abu Dhabi 5132, (B) Abu Dhabi 4704, (C)
Abu Dhabi 4010

[¶1](#). (U) Summary: Iraq Governing Council President Abdulaziz Al Hakim paid a brief visit to the UAE December 21, meeting with UAE President Shaykh Zayed, Deputy Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and UAE Armed Forces Chief, Mohammed bin Zayed (MbZ) and with Deputy Prime Minister and MinState for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan bin Zayed (HbZ). The discussions covered the situation in Iraq and efforts to restore security and stability

there. As with earlier such visits by IGC delegations (refs A and B), the UAEG rolled out the red carpet and issued a strong public statement in support of the interim Iraqi leadership. End summary.

¶2. (C) Abu Dhabi Deputy Crown Prince and UAE Armed Forces Chief of Staff, LTG Shaykh Mohammed bin Zayed, told the Ambassador and visiting U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General Jumper that President Zayed and Al Hakim met in an open majlis for 20 minutes, then held a private discussion. "It was a very good meeting," he added. President Zayed had emphasized to Al Hakim the need for good governance and pledged UAE's ongoing support of Iraq. In the second, smaller meeting Al Hakim raised three issues: a) concern over transit of Al Qaida through the UAE; b) presence of former Baathists in the UAE; and c) UAE support for Iraq's reconstruction. MbZ told Al Hakim that the UAE actively looks out for Al Qaida operatives given its many borders and has a close cooperation with the USG. On former Baathists traveling to the UAE, he told Al Hakim that many Iraqis along with all other nationalities enter the UAE freely, but if the CPA or GC have any serious concerns and evidence regarding former Baathists, the UAE would gladly put them on a plane for Baghdad.

¶3. (C) Deputy PM and MinState for Foreign Affairs Hamdan bin Zayed HbZ held meetings with Al Hakim both before and after Shaykh Zayed's meeting. According to HbZ's staff, the discussions focused on the UAE's role in the reconstruction of Iraq and humanitarian support for the Iraqi people through the UAE's Red Crescent Society.

¶4. (U) In an official statement released to the press, Shaykh Zayed called for the restoration of tranquility and stability in Iraq. His statement was generally consistent with earlier public statements of support for the IGC by the UAEG (ref C), with promises that Emiratis and the Arab world would stand by their Iraqi brothers. President Zayed underscored the importance of Iraqi sovereignty, and called on the U.S.-led coalition to hand over power to the Iraqis as soon as their mission is accomplished and security is restored. Non-Iraqi opinion on the issues of stability and sovereignty are unacceptable, the President added. "On these issues, it is only the opinion of the Iraqis that should reign supreme."

¶5. (U) Due to the brief length of Al Hakim's visit, there was no time to meet with Abu Dhabi's Iraqi expatriate community, a fact confirmed by two of the Embassy's regular Iraqi contacts active in the expat community.

WAHBA